

MMJ Email Summer Blue Sheet Edition 2

When Jean goes out at 5 a.m to build her morning fire I plug in my ear speaker and flick on to Public Radio for an hour or more of snooze news...

Yesterday started off with news about the Supreme Court striking down DOMA...(Defense of Marriage Act). It almost got me out of bed. I hardly believed it — *“DOMA no mo!”* I said... *I thought of Washington and California couples I know* who were certainly ecstatic (Oregon has yet to approve same sex marriage)... *Some friends on my list feel strongly exactly the opposite* about the Court decision, so the controversy continues... *When will people ever stop* telling us that God commands and the Bible demands certain beliefs and practices?... *The Bible is not a book. It's a library* of collected writings that “library committees” have picked out to be authority for a particular faith community. It might be good to know who was on the committee... *When those who use “the Bible says” argument* agree to follow all the various rules, regulations and teachings found in the Bible we might take them more seriously, but likely not... *Five justices doomed DOMA*... and three of them were women...

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All this marriage news reminds me that I have a big wedding to do very, very soon. Another of our grand's, the fourth... *There are benefits to being married* although we still hear people say that they don't need a piece of paper from the State to live like married people. That piece of paper with a signed license qualifies a couple for over 1,100 Federal and State benefits not given to the unmarried. It makes marriage worth looking into just for the tax benefits... *When all those benefits are suddenly granted* to a whole class of people formerly excluded by the now-declared-unconstitutional Defense of Marriage Act you can understand their joy... *Nobody ever asked me to do a wedding* so they could get Federal benefits, but I have had two weddings re-arranged around New Year's Eve to allow some tax advantage... *Someone asked whether I would perform a wedding for a gay couple*, which I have not yet been asked to do. I try to imagine a Jesus or God who would withhold blessing from anyone who wants to declare a commitment to a loving relationship with anyone else. That pretty much decides it for me...

President John F Kennedy suggested that instead of celebrating the 4th of July by setting off bombs and fireworks we should ring bells...freedom bells, liberty bells. Let freedom ring! Let us celebrate liberty and justice for all— especially *for all*— whether we like it or not.

*“Well, I've got a hammer and I've got a bell
And I've got a song to sing all over this land,
It's the hammer of justice, it's the bell of freedom
It's a song about love between my brothers and sisters all over this land.”*

For the Moment..

Art Morgan, June 27, 2013